

**Channel Tunnel Rail Link
Union Railways (South) Ltd**

Project Area 440

**NORTH
OF
SALTWOOD TUNNEL KENT.**

ARC SLT 98

**DETAILED ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS
INTERIM REPORT**

Contract S/400/SP/0009/P484A*

**Canterbury Archaeological Trust
23 November 1999**

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Prepared by:
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**Canterbury Archaeological Trust
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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Specification

- 1.1.1 Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd (CAT) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake a detailed archaeological investigation on a suspected Roman settlement north of Saltwood Tunnel in the northern part of the parish of Saltwood, Kent (Figure 1). This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL).
- 1.1.2 The site (Figure 2) occupied an area of 1.08 hectares, centred on URL grid point 95450/16950 and NGR grid point TR 1545 3695. The site was specified for strip, map and detailed excavation. The excavation was undertaken by CAT during January 1999 and March 1999.
- 1.1.3 The site adjoined the southern fence of the M20 but on the other three sides followed designated boundaries within the pre-existing pasture field. A strip 30m wide along the south side separated the excavation from the nineteenth century spoil heaps that here mark the line of the existing tunnel.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site occupies the highest point on the western corner of a plateau in the Folkestone Beds, a distinct formation of lower cretaceous sandstones (British Geological Survey Sheet 305/6). The land drops away steeply south-westward into the narrow valley of the Slay Brook where the underlying Hythe and Sandgate Beds are exposed. On the highest parts of the site a bed of decayed ragstone survived but elsewhere the geology consisted of very soft green sand.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology was capped in places by a distinctive and very localised deposit, up to 500mm thick, consisting of a brown, sandy clay containing weathered flints and calcareous concretions, a loessic drift material that overlies the Folkestone Beds in some areas.
- 1.2.3 The site is in an area of broadly mapped typical Argillic brown earth soils (Fyfield 2) on Cretaceous sands and loams. Some of the soils are more acidic, sandy humo-ferric podzols developed on the sandy Folkestone Beds. These have acidic pH3 values, are well-drained and are prone to water erosion.
- 1.2.4 The north-western and eastern areas of the site occupy a relatively flat plateau but the south-western part slopes steeply into the head of a combe that joins the Slay Brook 400m to the south-west. This combe has been heavily disturbed by the cutting leading to the western entrance of the tunnel. On the north the M20 has cut deeply into the hilltop removing the archaeology and the top of the geology. The topsoil consisted of a ploughsoil 0.25m-0.30m deep beneath which was a fairly homogenous deposit containing redeposited finds, suggesting a period of deep ploughing that preceded the laying of field drains. Both events are likely to have taken place this century. The truncated nature of all features suggests that this ploughing has caused relatively deep erosion of the underlying deposits. The level of the truncated natural varies from 96.80 to 95.58m OD in the plateau area but drops to 93.88m OD in the combe. The site had received some disturbance from recent service trenches but, more significantly, an area 20m square east of the junction of sunken roads at the centre of the site had been severely truncated by operations connected with the construction of the M20.

1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 The site at Saltwood has produced few finds from the vicinity, save a casual discovery of a Roman coin (OAU No 1138). The first major discoveries were made in 1979 during the construction of the M20, CTRL *Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects* (1994). Brief observations made during earth-moving operations suggested the presence of an extensive settlement here centred at TR1550 3700 (OAU No 1103). Structural remains and loose finds were recovered during observation of the roadworks on that occasion, the pottery suggesting occupation of the site during the late Iron Age, Roman and possibly later periods. The limits of the site were not identified.
- 1.3.2 Fieldwalking by Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) in 1994 produced a scatter of worked and burnt flint, besides Middle Iron Age, Roman and medieval pottery (OAU No. 1368). On the basis of this evidence the *CTRL Assessment of Historic and Cultural Effects* (1994) identified this site as potentially of regional significance and thus justified further investigation.
- 1.3.3 In 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation over 4.5 hectares of the site (URL Archaeological Evaluation Report , ARC SLT 97, December 1997). Sixteen evaluation trenches revealed a linear hollow, ditches and a cremation burial of Iron Age and Roman date.
- 1.3.4 A detailed excavation was undertaken in an area centred on the zone of greatest complexity and density of archaeological features as revealed by the test trenching. That excavation (site code ARC SLT 98) is the subject of this report.
- 1.3.5 Following the completion of the excavation further evaluation work was undertaken to the east. Further boundary ditches, apparently part of a medieval enclosure system, were traced and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and prehistoric ring ditch (ARC SLT98C) were identified and investigated.

2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

2.1 Site summary (Figures 3-6)

- 2.1.1. The investigation produced evidence for a complex and long lived site commencing in the late Iron Age and continuing through to the Early or Middle Saxon period, datable finds spanning the first century BC to the sixth or seventh century AD. A discrete area of early medieval occupation succeeded this in the central zone. In addition, finds of struck and burnt flint and a few tools suggest some activity here during the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The main Roman and early post-Roman features consisted of two sunken and partly-metalled roads which crossed the site diagonally to meet at a junction in the northern part of the site. Extensions of these roads to north-east and north-west had been truncated by the cutting of the M20. Within the angles of this road system to east and west were enclosures containing cremation burials and settlement remains. The medieval settlement overlay the western side of the junction. The site will be described by reference to the location of the sunken roads as the most significant features of its layout.

Prehistoric

- 2.1.2 The earliest activity was identified simply from unstratified material or residual finds of worked flint, mainly waste flakes but including some flint implements of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. No features can be securely dated to these periods or to the earlier Iron Age.

Early Iron Age (mid sixth - mid fourth century BC)

- 2.1.3 Pottery of Early Iron Age date recovered from the area north-west of the western hollow way suggests activity in this area at an early date and, possibly, an early use of the route up the combe, preceding the creation of the hollow way.

Late Iron Age (mid first century BC - mid first century AD)

- 2.1.4 The earliest features located on the greensand plateau appear to be two pairs of curvilinear ditches, [119] and [126] and [106] and [110], which form two concentric arcs masked by the later hollow way on the south and passing beyond the northern site boundary (Figure 3). The eastern pair was heavily truncated by a recent disturbance. These four ditches would seem to be successive boundaries on the western side of an enclosure extending beyond the site limits.
- 2.1.5 The formation of the hollow ways may have commenced in this period but the lack of stratified deposits associated with the erosion process prevents close dating.
- 2.1.6. Adjoining the south side of the road junction an oval pit or quarry [129] also appears to date to this period. Further extensive pits or quarries [627] and [912] cut into the brickearth deposits in the south-west corner of the site may form part of the same phase of activity on grounds of stratigraphic relationships and the absence of Roman pottery from their fill.

Early Roman (mid first century late second century AD)

- 2.1.7 During the Late Iron Age or early Roman period a thin and sporadic metal surface (Plate 2) was laid in the western hollow way (814), this surface then being cut by a ditch, possibly of two phases, along the uphill, north-western side. In the eastern, uphill section the outer edge of this ditch was lined with stone slabs which also served as a footing for a dry-stone wall. While the ditch acted as a drain for the road, the wall served as a boundary to the area to the north-west, which here consisted of a plateau of the natural greensand.
- 2.1.8. On the western side of the hollow way but downhill from the latter a complex of post-holes and small pits occupied an area of more clayey soil adjoining the hollow way. Narrow ditches to the north-west are described in 2.1.9. One recut gully aligned north-west by south-east subdivided the western part of the complex and might suggest the presence of two adjacent structures. At least one four post structure can be discerned within the complex besides a linear arrangement of posts. Pottery from this area suggested an early Roman date, although a relatively complete vessel from one pit may be of late Roman date.
- 2.1.9 The area to the west was occupied by a complex of ditches, some of post-Roman date. Those associated with the early Roman phase mark an enclosure system of at least two phases. The earliest ditch adjoins the structures on the south-west and extends back at right angles to the hollow way; later elements of the rectilinear pattern may delimit two enclosures set end to end, each 30m by 20m. An alternative arrangement can also be discerned in which two ditches set at right angles formed the western corner of an enclosure with its long side adjoining the hollow way, this enclosure measuring 30m by 60m. A rectangular pit [384] within this system produced carbonised seed from its base and would appear to have served as a drying oven.
- 2.1.10 The eastern hollow way was somewhat narrower and defined by ditches on both sides. Little trace of metallurgy was noted, possibly because of later robbing or pitting along its line. The ditch on its eastern side truncated the curvilinear Iron Age ditches and was of two phases, a discontinuous dry-stone wall being associated with the later phase. The ditches themselves extended beyond the limit of excavation but one phase terminated on the south-east close to the terminal of a boundary running north-eastwards at right angles to the hollow way.
- 2.1.11 The boundary ditch north-east of the hollow way linked with a similar feature returning to the north-west, parallel to the hollow way. With the latter they formed three sides of a trapezoidal enclosure between 25m and 35m wide and approximately 60m long, the north-western end of which was marked by a short length of ditch passing into the M20 corridor. The north-eastern side had been truncated by a recent disturbance. Both the north-east and south east sides had been recut.
- 2.1.12 Within this enclosure and midway along its south-western side was a group of nine cremation burials accompanied by pottery vessels and copper alloy brooches of mid to late first-century date. These burials appeared to be an isolated group but two more were located in the far eastern corner of the enclosure, one of these having been previously recorded by OAU. The date of these was somewhat later, the accompanying vessels being of the mid or late second century.

- 2.1.13 Adjoining these burials, but not necessarily contemporary, was a group of intersecting pits which produced debris from metal working. At a later date, an extended, adult inhumation [24] with head west was inserted into the pit group. This was unaccompanied by grave goods or evidence for coffin but typologically might belong to the late or early post-Roman period.
- 2.1.14 Further narrow ditches were traced south-eastwards from this enclosure, one of two parallel cuts continuing the line of the north-eastern side of the enclosure. Of two others nearer the hollow way one was of single profile while the southernmost had been recut. A short length of ditch on the north-western side at this point suggested there had been some subdivision of the main enclosure. To the south-east no trace of these features was observed.
- 2.1.15 Three irregular hollows in this area may be small quarries into the brickearth capping over the greensand.

Late Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon (third century - seventh century) (Figures 4 and 5)

- 2.1.16 The major features dating to this period were the hollow ways which continued in use, accumulating dark silts containing quantities of occupation debris. This material was concentrated in the area of the junction of the two alignments, close to the northern edge of the site. Here the deposits overlaid a substantial metallised surface which was bounded on the east by an oval pit partly filled with rubble. This had perhaps served as a sump linking with road-side ditches extending north-east and south-east along the hollow ways.
- 2.1.17 Few features of Late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon period were identified in the vicinity. However, a substantial ditch was traced cutting the silts of the south-western hollow way, parallel to the earlier dry-stone footing and approximately co-terminus with it. The contents and stratigraphic relationship to the hollow way suggested a date late within this period. Pits immediately to the north-west of the hollow way produced late Roman pottery and may be of similar date.
- 2.1.18 On the opposite south-eastern side of the hollow way the silts were overlapped by the stoke hole [638] of an oven [630] of domestic type, this feature producing quantities of Late Roman pottery.
- 2.1.19 An extensive deposit containing coins of the late fourth century was also encountered in the far south-west corner of the site, overlying both the early quarry-pits and some elements of the enclosure system.
- 2.1.20 The most distinctive feature of the early post-Roman period lay in the far north-eastern corner of the site where a sunken floored hut was excavated. This was aligned in conformity with the enclosure system and consisted of a rectangular sunken area with major post-holes in the middle of each side and smaller post-holes at the corners. Finds from the interior comprised a few sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery. This building appeared to be isolated, no other structures occurring to east, west or south. However, it should be noted that observation of the motorway stripping revealed traces of a rectilinear sunken feature 30m to the north-east (Find KMW.54.3, 'A New Archaeological Site at Saltwood', J. Willson, *Kent Archaeological Review* 80 Summer (1985), 226-235).

- 2.1.21 A pit within the Roman enclosure system to the south west may also date to the same period.

Early medieval (eleventh - twelfth century) (Figure 6)

- 2.1.22 In the area of the hollow way junction and immediately to its west a series of features containing eleventh and twelfth century pottery suggested the presence of an early medieval settlement. This area, approximately 20m square, was bounded on the south-west and part of the north-west sides by ditches [520] and [339/341]. Within this area pits and post-holes suggested the presence of structures.
- 2.1.23 The most significant occupation remains survived on the north-west side of the hollow way. Here post-holes and a possible foundation trench cut in the bedrock may derive from a building of indeterminate plan. On the north-east side a line of major post-holes appeared to cut the silts in the hollow way and extend onto the bedrock area. The pits were concentrated on the south-western side of the area.
- 2.1.24 A further boundary ditch [357] extended north-west from this point and others possibly existed to the south-west, where undated linear features were mapped but not excavated. These parallel gullies might have delimited cultivation strips.
- 2.1.25 Two lengths of ditch [794] and [903] along the south-eastern side of the hollow way coincided with its edge and terminated in a butt-joint with a late Roman ditch on the north-east. This apparent respect for earlier features is as yet un-explained, the ditches containing medieval material and delimiting the area of settlement.

Recent (Figure 7)

- 2.1.26 During the nineteenth or early twentieth century the site was probably subjected to ploughing causing the formation of a deep subsoil.
- 2.1.27 During the First World War trenches, pits and post-settings were cut in connection with the army camp on the site, these features most in evidence in the eastern part of the site.
- 2.1.28 These features were cut by a series of parallel trenches containing pottery field drains, eight of these being traced in the northern part of the site terminating in a line diagonally across the eastern half of the site.
- 2.1.29 A final phase of activity may be represented by a single trench cutting diagonally across the eastern part of the site. This and trenches in the western part containing vitreous pipes appear to have been services to Second World War buildings. Two parallel trenches either side of a crude metallised strip may represent a trackway laid at this period.

2.2 Periods represented

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The earliest Prehistoric activity was represented only by small quantities of struck flints, either unstratified or incorporated in later features.

Early Iron Age (mid sixth - mid fourth century BC)

- 2.2.2 Pottery from the structural complex in the head of the combe suggests some activity occurred here in the fifth century although the following centuries do not figure in the record, suggesting intermittent activity at this stage.

Late Iron Age (mid first century BC - mid first century AD)

- 2.2.3 The main features originating in this period are probably the hollow ways crossing the site, their formation the result of traffic up the combe from the south-west and movement along a route at right-angles across the plateau.
- 2.2.4 Specific features representative of this period are the curvilinear ditches in the central part of the site and the quarry pits across the western area, the latter possibly exploiting clay deposits.

Early Roman (mid first century BC - late second century AD)

- 2.2.5 This period is characterised by the laying of crude metalling in at least the south-west and central areas of the hollow way system and then the cutting of a ditch along the uphill edge of the south-western arm. A dry-stone foundation was constructed along the eastern section of this ditch as a revetment and support for a dry-stone wall on the uphill side. Finds from the ditch would place this activity in the conquest period or soon thereafter but dating of the south-eastern section is less certain in view of the paucity of material.
- 2.2.6 The early Roman period was marked by the laying-out of enclosure ditches in the areas east and west of the road junction. In both areas a larger open area lay close to the junction, the smaller subdivided area lying beyond.
- 2.2.7 Early Roman finds were recovered from timber structures erected within the western enclosure on the uphill side of the hollow way, the buildings contemporary with additional sub-divisions of the enclosure system.
- 2.2.8 Early in the history of the eastern enclosure a small cremation cemetery was established, the associated pottery vessels and copper alloy brooches placing this in the mid-late first century AD.
- 2.2.9 The adjacent pit complex could only be dated stratigraphically since it cut an early Roman ditch but was itself cut by an inhumation burial of late Roman type.
- 2.2.10 The latest activity that can be assigned to this phase were two cremations set in the eastern corner of the same enclosure, these dating to the mid or late second century. This period is otherwise represented only by casual inclusions in later contexts.

Late Roman and Early - Middle Anglo-Saxon (Early third century - seventh century AD)

- 2.2.11 The third century is definitely represented by one feature, the pit or sump on the east side of the road junction. This contained the only sizeable quantity of samian ware from the site. A wide range of third and fourth century pottery from the the overlying fill of the hollow way, especially in the area of the northern junction, provides evidence of casual rubbish disposal from a settlement no trace of which survived

within the site. The accumulation of this deposit suggests lack of maintenance of the metallised surface.

- 2.2.12 The oven on the south-east side of the hollow way contained little environmental evidence but produced a substantial group of pottery datable to the fourth century.
- 2.2.13 The later fourth century is represented in the far south-western corner of the site by a deposit overlying the earlier enclosure features and containing coins of this date.
- 2.2.14 The ditch cutting the late silts in the western hollow way is one of the most significant features in this phase since it appears to contain both late Roman and some early Anglo-Saxon material and is the strongest evidence for early post-Roman activity in the settlement area.
- 2.2.15 On typological grounds the extended inhumation on the south-western side of the eastern enclosure should fall in the late or early post Roman period but is otherwise un-dated.
- 2.2.16 The sunken floored building can be assigned to a similar or slightly later date on the basis of a limited quantity of pottery.

Early medieval (c. AD 1050-1200)

- 2.2.17 The early medieval period is represented by a small series of finds from ditches and pits associated with the settlement overlying the silted up hollow way and the greensand plateau to its west. The finds were specifically early and there is no trace of later medieval or early post-medieval activity.

Recent (c. AD 1850-1950)

- 2.2.18 Loose finds from the subsoil derive from agriculture in the last century while more recent activity is demonstrated by a series of land drains and features associated with army camps in the First and Second World Wars.

2.3 Feature types

- 2.3.1 A fairly wide range of features was encountered although building remains and industrial structures were not well represented. The recorded features can be categorised as:

- Ditches
- Structures post-hole structures and related levels
- Pits
- Metallised surfaces
- Burials- cremations and inhumations
- Ovens and grain dryers
- Drains

Ditches

- 2.3.2 The ditches on the site appear to have served both as drainage and boundary features, in some cases perhaps simultaneously. The most significant drainage ditches were those bordering the hollow way, in one case narrow gullies in the north-east and south east arms of the system leading to a crudely cut sump in the bedrock. In the case of the ditches bounding the enclosure system there was evidence for both recutting in the soft sand subsoil and for butt-joints and gaps between sections. The latter suggests the one-time existence of entrance ways between the enclosed areas. In at least one case a narrow gap at a T-junction between a butt-ended and linear ditch may indicate the presence of an intervening bank.
- 2.3.3 One unusual feature of the major ditches bordering the hollow ways was the presence at some points of dry-stone walls that were founded in the outer edges of the ditch and which appeared to have once supported walls separating roadway from open ground beyond.

Structures

- 2.3.4 Two groups of post-holes suggest the location of structures. The earliest was associated with Iron Age and Roman finds and although no clear building plans can be made out there are possible linear settings and at least one four-post setting.
- 2.3.5 The other grouping of timber structures was of early medieval date and comprised two sets of post settings. The first consisted of a row of four major post-pits cut into the hollow way and an irregular pattern of smaller post-holes partly over the hollow way and partly cut into the bedrock. The building plan is not clear but these may have been the main internal roof supports to a large open-plan building. A narrow linear trench and two pairs of small post-holes within an otherwise empty zone may indicate the location of a building founded on the greensand rock. In this instance the posts may have marked door ways, the trench a wall foundation or drip gully.
- 2.3.6 The major structure was the sunken-floored hut which was of sub-rectangular plan and marked by a shallow, flat bottomed cut without noticeable surfaces or occupation debris in its fill. Large post-holes were identified in the centre of each short side, with smaller holes in the middle of each long side and at the corners. This arrangement suggests a superstructure with a ridged roof along the long axis.

Pits

- 2.3.7 The pits were generally small and not easily characterised by the nature of their fill. None contained large quantities of finds, the small amount of datable pottery making dating difficult. One, however, had a green-stained fill possibly derived from cess and another small group contained metal-working debris in a comminuted state. One medieval pit was notable for a dense deposit of oyster shell and the complete ox-skull recovered from its base
- 2.3.8 Shallow scoops in the eastern area may have been exploiting the superficial clayey deposits or have been associated with farming activity. Another shallow scoop south of the road junction may have been exploiting the same deposits. At the south-western corner of the site a further extensive group of quarries may have been exploiting clay deposits in the combe.

Metalled surfaces

- 2.3.9 The major surviving area of metalling was in the south-western hollow way towards the junction with the truncated extension towards the north-west. The surface was composed of a single layer of crushed greensand and small weathered flints. This deposit thinned out towards the south-west and in the south-eastern arm was almost entirely absent.

Burials - cremations and inhumations

- 2.3.10 The most significant group of burials consisted of nine cremations, each comprising between one and four vessels, the cremated bone contained in a vessel in each case. Copper-alloy brooches accompanied several burials, these and the pottery dating to the mid or late first century AD. An isolated cremation was encountered close to the find spot of a cremation recorded in the previous evaluation by OAU. This consisted of cremated bone and several vessels of the mid or late second century. The inhumation consisted of an extended adult burial in a grave cutting the early Roman metal-working pits. There was no evidence for coffin or grave goods but on typological grounds this might date to the late or early post-Roman period.

Ovens and grain dryers

- 2.3.11 Only two features fell into this category. A large sub-rectangular pit containing traces of burning and carbonised seeds may have served as a drying oven, the few sherds in the fill belonging to the early Roman period. A late Roman oven consisted of an oval stoking-pit with the base of the circular oven chamber to the south-east. The stoking-pit cut the edge of the silted hollow way, the pits contents consisting of a wide range of fourth century AD pottery and some charcoal.

Drains

- 2.3.12 In the north-eastern sector of the site a series of eight narrow trenches contained pottery drain pipes and appear to belong to system of field drainage installed, probably after the First World War.

2.4 Artefactual remains*Pottery and ceramic building material*

- 2.4.1 The prehistoric ceramics are mostly residual in later contexts. The earliest material identified so far appears to go back to the early Iron Age period. There is a very wide range of fabrics, but the sherds are generally small and many are not diagnostic. The assemblage does include sherds of a polychrome-decorated fineware bowl of early Iron Age date, as well as ceramics of late Iron Age date.
- 2.4.2 The Iron Age and Roman ceramics effectively span the period c. 50 BC AD 400. The late Iron Age pottery includes appreciable quantities of both wheel-turned and handmade Belgic grog-tempered ware of East Kent origin, as well as sandy black wares from a local source. The latter ware is prevalent in the small cremation cemetery. Both wares continued to be supplied after the Roman Conquest and grog-tempered wares, in particular, occur throughout the Roman period.

- 2.4.3 Wheel-thrown imported wares include both butt-beakers and flagons in Gallo-Belgic whiteware, small quantities of South Gaulish Samian cups, platters and bowls, and fragments of Dressel 20 amphorae. The early Roman ceramics include products of the Canterbury kilns, as well as black-burnished bowls and dishes, and a variety of Upchurch wares.
- 2.4.4 Much of the late Roman ceramics is residual in medieval features or from features with a small element of contamination. There is a range of handmade fabrics of East Kent origin, as well as small quantities of sherds from the Preston kiln, Peterborough-area wares and Alice-Holt material. The only imports of this period are an Argonne Samian bowl and a Mayen-ware cooking pot.
- 2.4.5 Small quantities of early Anglo-Saxon ceramics could be distinguished from the late Iron Age material. These sherds came from the sunken-featured building, but were also dispersed across several other features on the site, in the vicinity of the road and the hollow way.
- 2.4.6 The medieval ceramics assemblage is remarkably similar to that excavated at Westenhanger Castle, (URL, North of Westenhanger Castle, Kent, ARC WGC98, October 1999) in that it is dominated by material of eleventh- and twelfth-century date. The sherds are generally not in good condition, but the assemblage is significant, nonetheless, in establishing a form and fabric series for this part of East Kent. There are approximately 300 sherds and they consist almost entirely of coarse ware cooking pots, plus a few bowls or pans, mostly produced in Early Medieval Canterbury Sandy ware, a fabric which was widely distributed across East Kent from c. 1050-1225. The other significant ceramic tradition in this assemblage is represented by flint- and shell-tempered wares. At least five closely-related fabrics have been identified, which are identical to those from Westenhanger Castle, and similar to fabrics from both Folkestone and Dover. There is also a smaller assemblage of purely shell-tempered early medieval wares, as well as a local variant tempered largely with chalk, and a small group of sherds of Ashford Potters Corner-type ware.
- 2.4.7 There are scarcely any sherds of later medieval wares, suggesting that there was very little activity on-site at this time.
- 2.4.8 Most of the ceramic building material is of Roman date. It includes just over 50 fragments of brick and tile, two pieces of medieval roof tile and a small quantity of post-medieval brick and roofing tile. In addition, there is over 9kg of daub, amongst which are numerous fragments with wattle impressions.

Small finds

- 2.4.9 Almost all of the small finds are of Roman date. The copper alloy finds include eleven coins, all of which are late Roman, ten brooches, a bracelet, a set of tweezers, a finger ring, fragments of two mirrors and an amphora-shaped late Roman strap-end. They are generally in a reasonable condition. The strap-end belongs to a familiar late Roman type which is now well-represented in Kent, and it serves to emphasise the late Roman date of the majority of the finds assemblage. The brooches, in contrast, are late Iron Age and early Roman types and were mostly found associated with the early Roman cremation burials. The mirror fragments also belong to the early Roman period and derived from the fill of the south-eastern hollow way.
- 2.4.10 The iron objects are restricted to nails, with the exception of a knife, several awl-like implements and a pin. Three types of lead weight were recovered, all of which are of

types which can be tentatively associated with fishing. A lead steelyard weight was also discovered, as well as an incomplete silver pin.

- 2.4.11 The only bone object to be recovered was the mid shaft of a pin. The lack of bone objects is probably a consequence of the acidic nature of the soils here. The three objects of glass include two small fragments of vessels and a polychrome bead.
- 2.4.12 The stone objects include part of a basalt lava quern, a hone and two rubbing stones. Fragments of two shale bracelets are likely to be of late Roman date. All of these objects are of conventional Roman forms.

Slag and metal-working residue

- 2.4.13 A relatively small quantity of iron slag was recovered from the early Roman contexts besides a group of copper alloy working debris including possible furnace linings and a crucible.

Palaeo-environmental and economic evidence

Human bone

- 2.4.14 Human bone, in a poor state of preservation, was recovered from the inhumation burial beside the hollow way, and from the small number of cremation burials. Fragmentary human bone was also recovered from samples taken from the cremations. The acidic nature of the soil may well have destroyed other remains, such as infant burials.

Animal Bone

- 2.4.15 Roman deposits from Saltwood produced 1376 fragments of mammal bone, of which 30% is identified to species. The material weighs 10613.5g of which 86% is identified to species. The discrepancy between the proportions of material identified by weight and by number highlights the poor preservation of much of the material from the site, in that there is a small amount of very fragmented material.
- 2.4.16 Ranking the species in order of numerical importance produces the order cattle, dog, sheep, pig, horse, and deer. Cattle bones constitute 73% of the identified bone weight, and thus contributed the greatest meat weight. Dog features second in the ranking according to number of fragments because of a single articulating skeleton. If this group of bones were excluded then dog would appear between horse and deer in the rank order. Deer was solely represented by a small fragment of antler which could be from fallow or red deer.
- 2.4.17 Bones of small mammals were present in thirteen samples, the majority being post-cranial bones of voles and/or mice. Frog or toad bones were found in four samples. Bird bone, including domestic fowl and small passerines, was present in nine samples. Well-preserved fish bone occurred in seventeen samples and was common in five of these, all of which come from medieval pits. The assemblage includes herring, eel, mackerel and thornback ray. In one case it appears that fish guts had been deposited in a pit, alongside scales of larger fish.

Plant Remains

- 2.4.18 The plant remains consist of charcoal, charred cereals and other seeds. Charred cereals were recovered from 50 samples and are abundant in the fills of the early Roman grain dryer. Cereal chaff was noted in a few samples, and common crop weeds were present in most of the assemblages, suggesting disposal of crop-processing waste on site.
- 2.4.19 The evaluation by OAU produced grains of possible emmer wheat from early Roman deposits. From current data it appears that, generally, emmer wheat was generally cultivated into the Iron Age but had been replaced by spelt wheat by the end of that period. There is some evidence, however, to suggest that emmer wheat was grown in southern England in the early Roman period. The wider range of better-preserved samples taken from the excavation phase provides an opportunity to assess this situation at Saltwood.

Invertebrate remains

- 2.4.20 These were not well-represented in general. Shellfish were recovered both by hand and in bulk samples. Marine mollusc shell was abundant in samples taken from medieval pit fills, alongside barnacles, a crustacean claw and fragments of a bryozoan adhering to a pebble. The generally acidic conditions meant that few land snails were recovered. Occasional remains of other invertebrates appear to be modern intrusions.

Soil micromorphology

- 2.4.21 Undisturbed blocks of sediment were collected in monolith boxes from the deep trench in the west of the site, the fills of the sunken-featured building, and from deposits both under and over the Roman road metalling.

3 FIELDWORK EVENT AIMS

3.1 The aims of the fieldwork event as stated in the WSI were as follows:

- Determine the morphology and organisation of the local Roman landscape
- Establish a dated sequence for the origin and development of the settlement including associated enclosures and trackways etc.
- Establish the association between land divisions and possible settlement focii
- Determine the contemporary local environment
- Recovery of dated environmental and economic indicators if these are found to be present on site
- Determine burial practice as preserved by the landscape setting of the site and interaction with the contemporary local environment
- Recovery of information on Romano-British burial practice, palaeo-pathology and demographic studies.

3.2 The main sequence of activity on the site is derived from spot dates from those contexts, particularly in the central and eastern areas, which produced the most dateable finds. The present interpretation is based on only a preliminary analysis of these finds which derive from a palimpsest site where the contexts often lack clear stratigraphic relationships.

3.3 Within the site limits the layout of the boundary system and hollow ways provides a useful insight into the organisation of the landscape, especially when the results from this site are seen in the context of finds to the east on SLT99 and knowledge of the locality gained from work such as that carried out in advance of the Channel Tunnel rail terminal. The site must also be seen in the context of finds such as the substantial building 2km to the south-west and, further afield, the villa and buildings at Folkestone and the Saxon Shore fort at Lympne.

3.4 Four main phases of activity have been identified and summarised here in Figures 3-6. Understanding, however, of the detailed sequence within individual periods is hampered by a lack of dating evidence from many of the features, especially the linear boundaries. There remains some difficulty in establishing the growth and sequence of the development of the Roman enclosure system.

3.5 The lack of major settlement remains prevents the association between land divisions and settlement focii from being established in the earlier phases and the core of the settlement is likely to have been either destroyed in building the M20 or to lie in the land north of the motorway. The small area of Iron Age and early Roman settlement on the west side of the site can be viewed in the context of the hollow way on the one side and the enclosure boundaries on the other. By the same token, the early medieval settlement, although small in area, can be related to pre-existing features, such as the silted hollow way, and the contemporary boundaries in its vicinity.

3.6 Evidence for the contemporary local environment was not recovered in any quantity. This was partly because of the prevailing soil conditions which did not allow the survival of animal bone and mollusca, partly through lack of contexts containing suitable deposits. Sampling was, however, undertaken in the hollow way deposits and associated ditches and in the deep quarry pits in the south-western corner of the site. These bulk and kubiena samples have may well produce data on the general conditions in the vicinity. Charcoal may provide some data on the exploitation of local woodlands and shrub cover.

- 3.7 Environmental and economic indicators were recovered in the form of samples containing charred cereals, crop processing debris and some faunal remains. The former was most abundant and useful, deriving from dated contexts in the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods. A medieval pit provided a useful sample of food molluscs and fish remains but is of limited value in view of its isolation. A single pit containing metalworking debris, including a crucible, may provide data on the working of copper alloy on the site but the material had been comminuted and disturbed by a later intrusive inhumation. The same context produced quantities of hammer scale suggesting iron smithing in the vicinity. In addition, 6kg of iron slag was recovered but not associated with any specific working place for the metal.
- 3.8 The cremation burials formed a small sample of burials from the immediate post-conquest period. Their immediate context within an enclosure system was recovered. The individual burials were badly truncated and the associated vessels fragmented; although this does not preclude their dating it is unlikely a refined chronology within such a small cemetery is possible. The cremated human remains will have been partially scattered thus limiting anthropological study of what may have been only a token sample. The two isolated cremations to the east appear somewhat later but the total sample is too small to carry out any comparative study.
- 3.9 The burial practice employed in this small cemetery could be determined although truncation may have removed not only the upper part of the vessels but the form of any grave pits and evidence for markers or ephemeral enclosures around the group. The inhumation provides merely a lone example of a burial type well-known from rural sites - the unaccompanied inhumation set into an earlier feature, often close to the boundary of an enclosure. Possibilities for palaeo-pathology and demographic study are, of course, very limited.
- 3.10 Since all the burials on this site fell within the Roman period they provide some insight into practices in the period but the small size of the sample limits any demographic study.

4 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL

4.1 The site has potential for providing an insight into questions posed in the CTRL research strategy for the period under the headings of 'Farming Communities' and 'Towns and their rural landscapes'.

- Determine spatial organisation of the landscape in terms of settlement location in relation to fields, pasture, woodland, enclosed areas and ways of moving between these.
- How were settlements and rural landscapes organised and how did they function?
- How did the organisation of the landscape change through time?
- Consider the effect on the landscape of known historical events, e.g. the arrival of Roman administration.

The site's relevance for the study of the ritual and ceremonial use of the landscape should also be considered.

4.2 The value of the site for tracing changes over time is limited by the paucity of dating evidence and the lack of a continuous sequence of overlapping enclosure and settlement plans. The presence, however, of discontinuous occupation evidence from the early Iron Age through to the early medieval period provides a useful sequence for a site in an area little studied previously. In particular, the identification of early Anglo-Saxon occupation on a late Roman site is of great significance in view of the rarity of such evidence for continuity or at least re-use of sites. The stratigraphic sequence within the hollow ways may help to refine dating of the local transition from the Roman to early Anglo-Saxon periods.

4.3 The enclosure system has considerable potential for the study of Roman settlement organisation in view of the rarity of such sites in the area. In particular it should illustrate the layout of those enclosures set on the periphery of settlements and the methods of forming the physical barriers around their margins. The dry-stone footings associated with ditches are unexpected and have rarely been observed in the area. The metallised sunken roads, their drainage channels and sump are of significance as an illustration of the level of organisation and, perhaps, of formal control within the settlement. If evidence for the organisation of the surrounding landscape is forthcoming, for instance, from air photography then this potential would be much enhanced.

4.4 Changes in the outline of the eastern enclosure show development towards a more rectilinear system, a reflection perhaps of increasing organisation of the landscape. A broad comparison can be made between the plan of the Roman settlement and that of the overlapping medieval occupation, separated by a considerable length of time but seemingly following or respecting some features of the earlier layout.

4.5 The dating of the original enclosure system is not closely defined but the level of organisation displayed by the site may allow some conclusions to be drawn about the influence of Roman administration on this and other rural settlements in the area. Comparison with other sites may identify a pattern of development common to this period which can be attributed to direct influence from the provincial administration. The plan of the road system may relate to other routes within the local

communications system and perhaps form part of the recorded link between Lympne and Dover.

- 4.6 The cemetery illustrates the use of rural enclosures for localised burial groups, seemingly as part of their wider agricultural or pastoral use. The small scale and poor preservation of the burial ground limits the sites value for the study of rural cemeteries or early populations.
- 4.7 The environmental evidence could potentially yield some data on the farming economy, the animal bones providing age and biometrical data on the Roman stock. The charred cereal remains are of value in the study of the crops in use in this period. The evaluation by OAU produced grains of possible emmer wheat from early Roman deposits. From current data it appears that emmer wheat was cultivated into the Iron Age but had been replaced by spelt wheat by the end of that period. There is some evidence, however, to suggest that emmer wheat was grown in southern England in the early Roman period. The wider range of better-preserved samples taken from the excavation phase provides an opportunity to assess this situation at Saltwood. Soil samples may also help to illustrate the wider setting of these activities.

APPENDIX 1**ARCHIVE INDEX**

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS	CONDITION (No. of items) (W = washed; UW = unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised I = Indexed)
Context Records	916		I
A1 Plans	55		I
A4 Plans	20		I
A1 Sections	11		I
A3 Sections	34		I
Small Finds	406	406	I
Films (monochrome) S = slide PR = print	17PR		I
Films (colour) S = slide PR = print	20S		I
Flint (boxes)	3 size 1	39	I P
Pottery (boxes)	2 size 4	4444	I P
Fired clay (boxes)	3 size 1	253	I P
CBM (boxes)		6	I P
Stone (boxes)	2 size 2	33	I P
Metalwork (boxes)	1 size 3	329	I U P
Glass (boxes)		4	I P
Slag (boxes)	2 size 1	290	I P
Human Bone (boxes)		6	I U/W
Animal Bone (boxes)	1 size 2	1935	I P
Soil Samples (bags)	2550 litres		I P
Monolith/kubiena tins	24		I P

Key to Box Sizes:

Size 1 : large = 540 x 406 x 260 mm

Size 2 : museum box = 430 x 300 x 235mm

Size 3 : half museum box = 430 x 305 x 100 mm

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY REPORT

Between January 1999 and March 1999 Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd (CAT) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake detailed archaeological investigations on a suspected Roman settlement north of Saltwood Tunnel, north of the village of Saltwood, Kent. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The investigation produced evidence for a long lived though dispersed settlement commencing in the early Iron Age and continuing through to the early or Middle Saxon period, a span of a millennium from the sixth century BC to the sixth or seventh century AD. A discrete area of early medieval occupation succeeded this in the central zone.

The earliest activity on the site would appear to be a limited zone of Early Iron Age occupation situated at the head of a dry combe in the south-west part of the site, this activity partly masked by later phases extending into the early Roman period. By the later Iron Age formation of the hollow way in the combe necessitated the cutting of drains and the initial metalling of the surface, especially in the area of the junction with another ditched roadway approaching from the south-east. Beyond the junction of these roadways on the north edge of the site, close to the line of the M20, their continuations to north-east and north-west had been truncated by the road cutting. Certain sections of the hollow way were bordered by dry-stone wall footings set in the side of the ditches bordering them.

Within the angles of this road system to east and west were enclosures which had passed through stages of enlargement and re-definition. That to the east in particular had seen, during the Iron Age, the cutting of two arcing lines of ditch as successive boundaries near the road junction before the creation of a more rectilinear enclosure in the Roman period. Within this a small cremation cemetery of the late first century AD had been established, the enclosure also containing two more of late second-century date and a solitary inhumation cutting a pit containing metal-working debris. The western enclosure extended back from the existing area of settlement and passed through several stages of elaboration

During the later Roman period a dense deposit of silt and occupation debris accumulated in the hollow way, filling the earlier ditches and a soakaway pit at the junction. A ditch was thereafter cut through the silts along the uphill side of the western hollow way, co-terminus with a length of dry-stone wall still extant. This contained residual late Roman and early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Opposite, an oven containing fourth-century pottery cut the hollow way silts. At the far east end of the site a sunken-floored building with timber roof supports could also be dated to the early Anglo-Saxon period from pottery within it .

Later Anglo-Saxon activity was absent but in the early medieval period a small settlement was established immediately west of and overlying the silted hollow way junction. This was delimited by slight ditches on the south-east and the south-west, with further sections of ditch continuing north-west off the site. Within this area small pits, post-holes and a trench or gully suggested the location of structures. A series of parallel trenches to the west may have defined a series of strip fields; a pit in this area produced oyster shells and fish remains. Finds generally dated to the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

There was little sign of later medieval or post-medieval activity here or in the vicinity but the depth of overlying subsoil may suggest deep ploughing prior to the erection of structures associated with an army camp of the First World War. Subsequently field drains were laid in the eastern area followed by the laying of service trenches during the Second World War.

APPENDIX 3

KENT SMR SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name: North of Saltwood Tunnel, Saltwood Kent	
Summary: Site known from finds during the construction of the M20 in 1979 was investigated in 1999 by Canterbury Archaeological Trust prior to destruction as part of work for high speed rail link. Metalled sunken roadways were adjoined by a settlement and enclosure system of Iron Age and Roman date, and succeeded by traces of Early Anglo-Saxon occupation. An early medieval settlement within boundary ditches occupied part of the site in the 11th and 12th centuries.	
District: : Shepway	Parish: Saltwood
Period(s): 1. Early Iron Age 2. Late Iron Age/Early Roman 3. Late Roman /Early Anglo-Saxon 4. Early medieval	
NGR Easting: TR1545	NGR Northing: TR3695
Type of recording: Excavation	
Date of recording: (From) January 1999 (To) March 1999	
Unit undertaking Recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust	

Summary of Fieldwork Results:

Between January 1999 and March 1999 Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd (CAT) was commissioned by Union Railways (South) Ltd (URS) to undertake detailed archaeological investigations on a suspected Roman settlement north of Saltwood Tunnel, north of the village of Saltwood, Kent. This work formed part of an extensive programme of archaeological investigation carried out in advance of the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The investigation produced evidence for a long lived though dispersed settlement commencing in the early Iron Age and continuing through to the early or Middle Saxon period, a span of a millennium from the 6th century BC to the 6th or 7th century AD. A discrete area of early medieval occupation succeeded this in the central zone.

The earliest activity on the site would appear to be a limited zone of early Iron Age occupation situated at the head of a dry combe in the south-west part of the site, this activity partly masked by later phases extending into the early Roman period. By the later Iron Age formation of the hollow way in the combe necessitated the cutting of drains and the initial metalling of the surface, especially in the area of the junction with another ditched roadway approaching from the south-east. Beyond the junction of these roadways on the north edge of the site, close to the line of the M20, their continuations to north-east and north-west had been truncated by the road cutting. Certain sections of the hollow way were bordered by dry-stone wall footings set in the side of the ditches bordering them.

Within the angles of this road system to east and west were enclosures which had passed through stages of enlargement and re-definition. That to the east in particular had seen, during the Iron Age, the cutting of two arcing lines of ditch as successive boundaries near the road junction before the creation of a more rectilinear enclosure in the Roman period. Within this a small cremation cemetery of the late 1st century AD had been established, the enclosure also containing two more of late 2nd century date and a solitary inhumation cutting a pit containing metal-working debris. The western enclosure extended back from the existing area of settlement and passed through several stages of elaboration

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Later Anglo-Saxon activity was absent but in the early medieval period a small settlement was established immediately west of, and overlying, the silted hollow way junction. This was delimited by slight ditches on the south-east and the south-west, with further sections of ditch continuing north-west off the site. Within this area small pits, post-holes and a trench or gully suggested the location of structures. Parallel trenches to the west may have defined a series of strip fields; a pit in this area produced oyster shells and fish remains. Finds generally dated to the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

There was little sign of later medieval or post-medieval activity here or in the vicinity but the depth of overlying subsoil may suggest deep ploughing prior to the erection of structures associated with an army camp of the First World War. Subsequently field drains were laid in the eastern area followed by the laying of service trenches during the Second World War.

Location of Archive**Bibliography:** CAT Excavation report

Summary Compiler : Christopher Sparey-Green

Date: 21 October 1999

APPENDIX 4

LAND TO THE NORTH OF SALTWOOD TUNNEL:

ARC SLT 99 CENTRAL SECTION.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1.1 Site summary (Figures 8-10)

- 1.1.1 The investigation identified a number of linear ditch/gully features, a larger curvilinear ditch, possible evidence of Roman quarrying, a scattering of cremation burials and a possible single inhumation with associated four-post structure. Other features were investigated, although poor definition and paucity of finds recovered would suggest that these were either of geological origin or the product of other natural processes.

Prehistoric

- 1.1.2 No securely dated features or deposits were identified although small, badly abraded sherds of coarse flint tempered pottery were present as residual finds in later contexts. Struck flint was present in a number of contexts, again as residual material.
- 1.1.3 An area of dark soil was encountered in the south-eastern limit of the area investigated. This produced small abraded shards of prehistoric pottery, and at a depth of 0.40 - 0.45m below the present ground level, this may represent a soil of prehistoric origin.

Late Iron Age (c. 100 BC - AD 43)

- 1.1.4 A short section of a curvilinear ditch was identified in the south western corner of the area investigated. Pottery recovered from the secondary fill(s) can be dated to the later Iron Age, with Belgic and early Roman material present in the later backfill deposits. No definite function can be attributed to this feature although its shape suggests either a large funerary structure or defended enclosure.
- 1.1.5 A diffuse group of nine cremation burials was present, one of which contained large sherds of coarse, flint-tempered pottery. The pottery, although fragmented, was deliberately deposited with the cremated material. A number of the other cremations within the group produced pottery of a similar fabric and therefore it can be suggested that all the cremations are contemporary.
- 1.1.6 A large sub-circular, shallow scoop was identified to the east of the curvilinear ditch. This produced flint-tempered pottery of a Late Iron Age date, and may be associated with the later Roman quarrying against the side of the ditch.

Roman (c. AD 43 - AD 410).

- 1.1.7 Evidence of Roman activity was limited to possible quarrying or deliberate backfilling of the Late Iron Age curvilinear ditch. This consisted of large shallow scoops along the northern edge and a number of smaller, shallow scoops to the north and west.

- 1.1.8 A possible, east-west aligned inhumation was situated to the north-east of the earlier cremation group. A large, sub-rectangular structure represented by four small, very shallow clay lined post-holes was present immediately to the east of the inhumation, although no definite function or association with it can be established.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.1.9 No physical evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was present, although a single sherd of Middle Saxon pottery was recovered as an unstratified surface find.

Medieval

- 1.1.10 Medieval activity consisted of long stretches of drainage ditches and field boundaries. These had north-west by south-east and south-west by north-east orientation, and would appear to form a large rectangular based field system, the alignment and orientation of which appear to be similar to those identified during the earlier excavation to the west (SLT 98 Settlement).

Post-medieval

- 1.1.11 Post-medieval activity was limited to a narrow short stretch of field drain which cut across one of the medieval ditches, and a small shallow gully at the northern limit of the excavation.

Nineteenth/twentieth century

- 1.1.12 A number of large shallow pits and areas of disturbance were present. These produced large quantities of coal, ash and cinder-like material along with modern brick and other building materials. A network of ceramic sewerage pipes and brick inspection pits were associated with the military use of the site.

APPENDIX 5

ARCHIVE INDEX
ARC SLT99 CENTRAL SECTION

ITEM	NUMBER OF ITEMS	NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS	CONDITION (No. of items) (W = washed; UW = unwashed; M = marked; P = processed; UP = unprocessed; D = digitised I = Indexed)
Context Records	298		I
A1 Plans	21		I
A3 Plans	24		I
A1 Sections	3		I
A3 Sections	21		I
Small Finds	3		I
Films (monochrome)	12PR		I
Films (colour)	12S		I
Flint (boxes)	1	75	W
Pottery (boxes)	1 size 1	263	W
Metalwork (boxes and packages)			
Glass (boxes)			
Human Bones (boxes)			
Animal Bones	1 size 2	13	N
Soil Samples	410 litres	41	P
Monolith/kubienatins			
Grave Fill Samples			

Key to Box Sizes:

Size 1: Bulk Box	425 x 300 x 225 mm
Size 2: Small Finds Plastic Box	260 x 184 x 108mm